

**From:** Richard Donald Kowalczyk  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I want to make it known that I strongly disagree with the Microsoft anti-trust settlement. While there are numerous significant reasons that I feel this way, I will just mention one here. The settlement only requires Microsoft to disclose APIs to companies, which includes a minimum income, or something similar. Although I don't remember the details exactly, I do know that this would effectively eliminate the possibility of "free software" projects being able to properly interoperate with Microsoft products. Since Microsoft has stated, both publicly and in private (leaked memos) that they consider "free software" to be its number one competition, excluding it from the settlement seems ludicrous. There is no reason that the APIs should not be disclosed to everyone, since their only use is to allow other software to properly interact with Microsoft software.

As a student, I cannot afford to buy expensive software. While there are plenty of other software options out there which do not have Microsoft's monopolistic prices attached to them, I am effectively precluded from using these options because of Microsoft's monopoly in many areas. I hope that a better resolution can be reached than the one currently being considered.

Signed,  
Rich Kowalczyk